

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** George Panichas <gtpjr@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 11:52 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support of RI Promise (Article 1 Sec 15 and 2021 H 5524)

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing in support of Rhode Island Promise at CCRI and urge this committee to vote in favor of making the program permanent. The cost of college is simply too expensive for many Rhode Island families. Providing two years free tuition at CCRI will provide thousands of young Rhode Islanders the opportunity to earn their degree without the crippling debt associated with college.

As a business owner, I know that having an educated workforce is critical to the future of Rhode Island's economy, and there is no better economic development program to help drive our state's recovery than Rhode Island Promise. I believe it is a good education policy and a smart economic development policy.

For these reasons, I ask that you support making the program permanent and give thousands of Rhode Island students and families the security knowing a college education can be a reality.

Sincerely,  
George Panichas  
Board Member  
CCRI Foundation

\* Please excuse talk to text misspellings.